



# Poland and Britain Connections



# Poland and Britain – Connections

This little set of activities is currently developing as a response to racist behaviour towards Polish new arrivals in classrooms in areas where the presence of other ethnic groups is new and ignorance is shared by adults and children. The activities are designed to acquaint pupils with the connections that have been taking place since the twelfth century or earlier when Norman knights went crusading in Poland up to the time when after the invasions of Poland in 1939 many Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen came to Britain and made a significant contribution to the war effort. Many more from the Eastern Front joined the Allies in the Middle East and Africa. With help of colleagues in Poland I hope we can bring the history closer to the present. I sense that here we will be looking at historical events and ideas which are still very controversial. In the meantime the JU video: a linked set of short accounts, very well suited to chunking and ideal for classroom use, made in 2013 raises lots of issues and topics for discussion.

History of Poland in London produced by the Jagiellonian University Polish Research Centre:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fnjWB\\_A1YI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fnjWB_A1YI)

Currently we have two (maybe three) activities in the pipeline:

1. A 'sort out the clues' activity to complete a timeline introducing events from Polish history (bottom of timeline) and events from joint Great Britain/Polish history (top of timeline). This is similar to popular activities such as Technology and the Wilsons produced by Steve Cooke. <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/thewilsons.pdf>
2. An informationgap/transformations activity introducing a class set and more of people, events, artefacts for sharing and researching. We have recently been developing similar activities for Vikings and the Middle Ages. You can find a guide to our transformations activity at <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/transformations.pdf>
3. A timeline and mapping activity along the lines of our Anglo Saxon dates activity where small groups study different periods of Polish history to research and present to the rest of the class.

I must emphasise at this stage that the activities are tentative and without your comments and suggestions will go nowhere. If you have Polish students or teachers in your school please ask them to help us. I am now enjoying reading Norman Davies' God's Playground – a history of Poland. This book is also available in Polish. Norman Davies, Welsh and Polish, has his own interesting website.

# Britain and Poland; characters, events and objects for transformation activity.

Provisional list in no particular order. We welcome additions and sample texts like the ones below:

John Paul II  
Lech Walesa  
Jozef Pilsudski  
Zbigniew Brzezinski  
Tadeusz Mazowiecki  
Tadeusz Kosciuszko (1746-1817)  
Boleslaus the Brave (c.967-1025)  
Casimir the Great (1310-1370)  
Stefan Batory - Stephen Bathory (1533-1586)  
John III Sobieski (1629-1696)  
Stanislaw August Poniatowski (1732-1798)  
Marie Curie  
Nicolaus Copernicus  
Ernest Malinowski  
Andrzej Wajda  
Daniel Fahrenheit  
Menachem Begin

Bishop Adalbert  
Frederick Chopin  
Gwordiec Synagogue  
Charles Edward Stuart  
Teutonic Knights  
Maria Clementina Sobieska  
Marie Walewska  
Roman Polanski  
Warsaw confederation  
Gdansk  
Warsaw  
Krakow  
Sejm  
Statute of Kalisz  
Joseph Conrad  
Lipka Tatars  
Crowned Eagle  
Jan Kowalewski  
Ryszard Kapuściński  
Władysław Anders  
Alexander Chalmers  
and.....

Charles Edward  
Stuart

Pawel Działyński

Lech Walesa

John Paul II

**Marie Walewska** I agreed to become Napoleon's mistress in 1810 because I believed he would help Poland become an independent country again. Sadly this did not happen.



**Adalbert**



My name means noble and shining. I lived in the 10th century and was martyred in 997. I am the patron saint of Poland. My story is carved on the doors of Gnesnow cathedral.

**Krzysztof  
Warszewicki**



**John III Sobieski**



I became king of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1674. I defeated the Ottomans at the siege of Vienna in 1683 with the help of the Lipska Tatars.



## Teutonic Knights



## Nicolaus Copernicus



## Gdansk



Marie Curie  
Slodowska

## Crowned Eagle



1295  
Poland makes the crowned  
eagle its coat of arms

## Polish Memorial



## Alexander Chalmers



## Warsaw



## National Dress



## Lipka Tatars



## Frederick Chopin

## Gwordiec Synagogue



Roman Polanski

Lipka Tatars



Warsaw  
confederation

Krakow

Sejm

Statute of Kalisz

Joseph Conrad

Jan Kowalewski

Ryszard  
Kapuściński

Władysław  
Anders.

Jozef Pilsudski

Zbigniew  
Brzezinski

Tadeusz  
Mazowiecki

Tadeusz  
Kosciuszko  
(1746-1817)

Boleslaus the  
Brave (c.967-  
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Stefan Batory -  
Stephen Bathory  
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Stanislaw August  
Poniatowski  
(1732-1798)

Ernest  
Malinowski

Andrzej Wajda

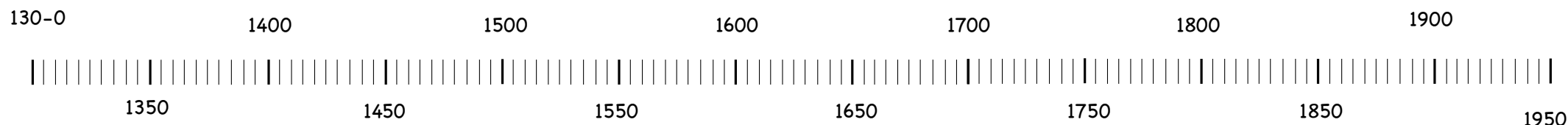


Daniel Fahrenheit

Menachem Begin


# Britain and Poland Timeline

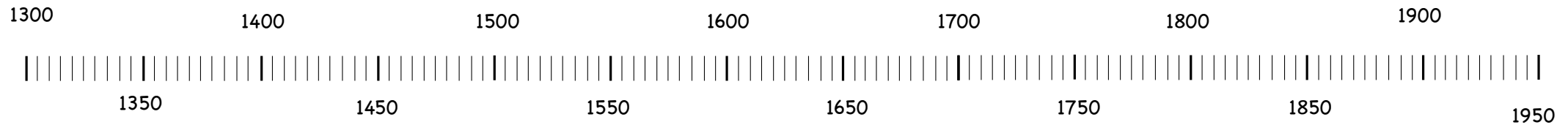
1415 Henry V asked Poland for help against the French during 100 years war.	1576 King Stephen Batory gave a part of Krakow to Scots migrants.	1600. 30000 Scots were living in Poland as pedlars and trading agents	1691-1702 Alexander Chalmers was four times Mayor of Warsaw.	1720. Charles Edward Stuart was born. His mother was a Polish princess.	1890 Joseph Korzeniowski came to UK and became the famous novelist Joseph Conrad.	1939 Warsaw code breakers helped UK codebreakers to crack Nazi Germany's coded messages.	1939 Four Polish destroyers escaped the German invasion and sailed to Scotland.
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1295 Poland makes the crowned eagle its coat of arms	1330 Władysław the Short makes good progress in unifying the country and keeping Teutonic knights away.	1410 Battle of Grunwald where Teutonic knights were defeated.	1596 Capital moves from Krakow to Warsaw.	1683 Battle of Vienna followed by Treaty of Perpetual Peace	1724 Tjumul of Thorn	1772-93 Partition of poland	1918 Women given right to vote in new Polish republic
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# Britain and Poland Timeline

Henry V asked Poland for help against the French during the Hundred Years War.	King Stephen Batory gave a part of Krakow to Scots migrants.	30000 Scots were living in Poland as pedlars and trading agents	1691-1702 Alexander Chalmers, a Scot, was four times Mayor of Warsaw.	1720. Charles Edward Stuart was born. His mother was a Polish princess.	1890 Joseph Korzeniowski came to UK and became the famous novelist Joseph Conrad.	1939 Warsaw code breakers helped UK codebreakers to crack Nazi Germany's coded messages.	1939 Four Polish destroyers escaped the German invasion and sailed to Scotland.
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Thirty five years after Poland took the crowned eagle as its coat of arms Władysław the Short unified the country

Charles Edward Stuart 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' whose mother was a Polish princess was born twenty nine years after Alexander Chalmers became mayor of Warsaw.

Henry V asked Poland for help against the French five years after the Battle of Grunwald.

King Stephen Batory gave a part of Krakow to Scots migrants in 1576.

The Polish capital moved from Krakow to Warsaw twenty years after the Scots were granted homes in Krakow.

Twenty four years after Scots migrants were given a place to live in Krakow there were thirty thousand Scots working as agents and traders in Poland .

Warsaw code breakers helped UK codebreakers to crack Nazi Germany's coded messages forty one years after Joseph Conrad moved from Poland to Britain.

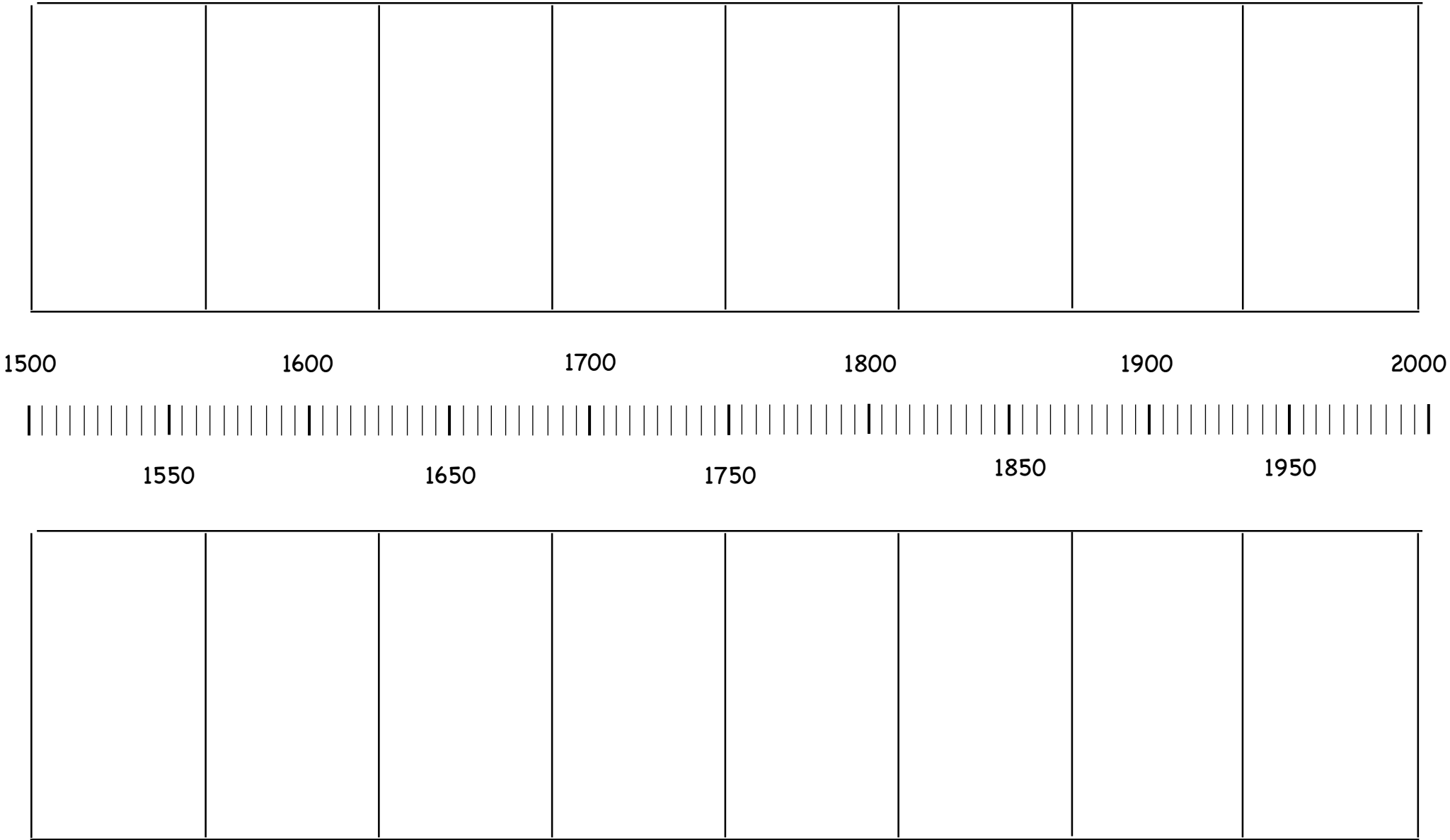
Four Polish destroyers escaped the German invasion and sailed to Scotland twenty one years after women were given the vote in the reborn Polish republic.

King Jan Sobieski III won the battle of Vienna and saved the Hapsburg empire from the Ottomans eighty nine years before the first partition of Poland

The Polish republic was reborn a hundred and twenty five years after it was partitioned and divided between Prussia, Austria and Russia.



# Britain and Poland Timeline





## Two or Three Jolly Times Together
